

**Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 - Expedited Examining Procedure**

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Serial No. 09/346,412

Filed: July 1, 1999

Title: PROCESS VARIABLE GAUGE INTERFACE AND METHODS REGARDING SAME

one or more bars extending along the gauge axis, each bar representative of a set of high and low process limit values for a process variable, wherein the one or more bars extending along the gauge axis comprises:

a first bar extending along the gauge axis, wherein a first end of the first bar is representative of an engineering hard high limit for the process variable and a second end of the first bar is representative of an engineering hard low limit for the process variable, wherein the first end and second end of the first bar representative of the engineering hard high and hard low limits define a range in which operator set high and low limits are set; and

a second bar extending along the gauge axis, wherein a first end of the second bar is representative of the operator set high limit for the process variable and a second end of the second bar is representative of the operator set low limit for the process variable, wherein the first end and second end of the second bar representative of the operator set high and low limits define a range in which the process is free to operate; and

a graphical shape displayed along the gauge axis representative of a current value of the process variable.

24. (Twice Amended) A computer implemented method for providing a graphical user interface for providing real-time process information to a user for a process that is operable under control of one or more process variables, the method comprising:

displaying a scale extending along a gauge axis;

displaying one or more bars extending along the gauge axis, each bar representative of a set of high and low process limit values for a process variable, wherein displaying one or more bars extending along the gauge axis comprises:

displaying a first bar extending along the gauge axis, wherein a first end of the first bar is representative of an engineering hard high limit for the process variable and a second end of the first bar is representative of an engineering hard low limit for the process variable, wherein the first end and second end of the first bar representative of

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the engineering hard high and hard low limits define a range in which operator set high and low limits are set; and

displaying a second bar extending along the gauge axis, wherein a first end of the second bar is representative of the operator set high limit for the process variable and a second end of the second bar is representative of the operator set low limit for the process variable, wherein the first end and second end of the second bar representative of the operator set high and low limits define a range in which the process is free to operate; providing data representative of at least the current value of the process variable; and displaying a graphical shape along the gauge axis representative of the current value of the process variable relative to the set of high and low process limit values.

58. (Once Amended) A graphical user interface for providing real-time process information to a user with regard to a process that is operable under control of one or more process variables, the graphical user interface comprising:

a scale extending along a gauge axis;

one or more bars extending along the gauge axis, each bar representative of a set of high and low process limit values for a process variable, wherein the one or more bars extending along the gauge axis comprise:

a first bar extending along the gauge axis, wherein a first end of the first bar is representative of an engineering hard high limit for the process variable and a second end of the first bar is representative of an engineering hard low limit for the process variable, wherein the first end and second end of the first bar representative of the engineering hard high and hard low limits define a range in which operator set high and low limits are set; and

a second bar extending along the gauge axis, wherein a first end of the second bar is representative of the operator set high limit for the process variable and a second end of the second bar is representative of the operator set low limit for the process variable, wherein the first end and second end of the second bar representative of the operator set high and low limits define a range in which the process is free to operate, and further

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wherein the second bar extends along the gauge axis within the first bar representative of the engineering hard high and low limits for the process variable;

a graphical shape displayed along the gauge axis representative of a current value of the process variable; and

user manipulation elements movable to change one or more of the high and low process limit values.